
長角豆屬 chang jiao dou shu

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*Ceratonia* Adanson.

Trees, evergreen, small or medium-sized, with a dense crown. Leaves abruptly pinnate; stipules small or absent; leaflets 2–4 pairs. Flowers small, polygamous or plants dioecious, in short, solitary or fasciculate racemes. Inflorescence lateral on current-year branchlets; bracts and bracteoles caducous, scalelike, minute. Calyx tube turbinate; lobes 5, deciduous, toothlike, short, imbricate. Petals absent. Stamens 5; filaments filiform; anthers ovoid, versatile. Disk within stamens, horizontally spreading. Ovary shortly stalked, at middle of disk; ovules numerous; style very short; stigma peltate. Legume compressed, elongated, thickly leathery, indehiscent, between seeds by pulpy areas continuous with endocarp. Seeds numerous.

One species: native to the Mediterranean region, introduced and cultivated elsewhere including China.


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Trees, 15–16 m tall. Leaves 8–17 cm; leaflets 2–4 pairs, shiny, obovate or suborbicular, 3.5–5.5 × 3–3.5 cm, leathery, glabrous, lateral veins conspicuously raised, base cuneate or broadly cuneate, margin entire, apex rounded, emarginate, or conspicuously cordate depressed. Raceme with rachis densely yellowish brown pubescent. Flowers reddish. Legume curved, 10–25 × ca. 2.5 cm. FL Nov.

Cultivated in Guangdong (Guangzhou) [native to the E Mediterranean; widely cultivated and naturalized].

The dried legumes are rich in sugar; the seeds contain a useful gum, tragasol.